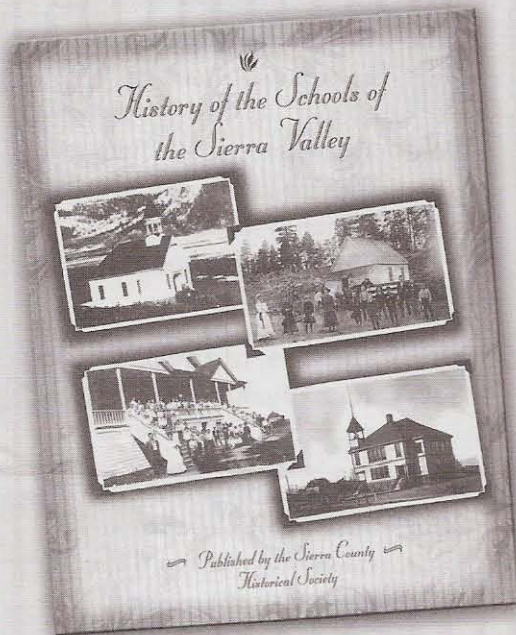


# The Sierran

— A Publication of the Sierra County Historical Society —

MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
AND THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS



## History of the Schools of the Sierra Valley — A Brief Introduction.

**T**his is not a single article but a series of excerpts from the newly published book, "The History of the Schools of the Sierra Valley." This book is the result of the research and writing of several members of the Historical Society — a result for which we are all very proud. We hope you enjoy these brief chapter excerpts, and you wish to purchase the book. It will be on sale at our yearly meeting in Loyalton. ~

### Antelope School District by Maren Scholberg

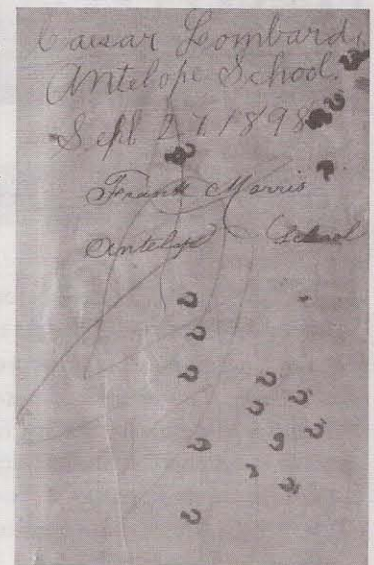
The HISTORY OF PLUMAS, LASSEN COUNTIES by Fariss & Smith (1882) states that in 1871 there were 25 small schoolhouses built of wood in Sierra County with 14 male and 14 female teachers.

At that time, Sierra county was divided into 26 school districts. Antelope school with 28 pupils, and Long Point school with 13 pupils were two of the 26 schools. These schools were called "summer schools" because they closed right after Christmas and did not open until the weather permitted in the spring.

In the mid 1890s, the new Antelope schoolhouse was moved to a place close to the entrance of the Filippini Road, on the north side of Highway 49. There was a sump with a spring near the school from which the school got their water. The process was to have one of the older boys go into the sump, fill a pail of water and hand it up to

another boy who then passed it on to yet another boy. It was then carried to the schoolhouse. Caesar Lombardi was often the boy in the sump and many times he told this story of getting water for the school. If you drive a short distance north on Filippini Road, the remains of the sump can be seen on the left hand side of the road.

*Continued on pg. 3*



Adella and the late Alvin Lombardi have a report card which belonged to Alvin's father, Caesar Lombardi. It is from the Antelope School dated Sept. 27, 1898 and signed by Frank Morris, the teacher.

## A Tribute to Ruth Ann Neubert 1921 - 2004

RUTH NEUBERT, a resident of Sierra City, was a member of the Sierra County Historical Society for many years. She was also a volunteer for the Kentucky Mine Museum, often calling members to try and get volunteers for a day, or even a half day, at the Museum. With a calendar in front of her, she faithfully made phone calls on the west side of the County, trying to fill in the days with the name of a volunteer to assist the Curator at the Museum during the busy summer months. She was persistent in a task that was not very easy, and her efforts were greatly appreciated.



## Annual Meeting of the Sierra County Historical Society

**When** September 12, 2004

**Where** Loyalton Social Hall  
located in the Loyalton  
Municipal Park.

**Time** 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Lunch and meeting.

**Note** The Historical Society will  
furnish Lasagna and  
Punch. Please bring  
anything else you wish for  
lunch.

**Museum** 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.  
**Tour** Tour Loyalton's fascinating  
museum.

**Historical** 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Tour** Tour by bus of the  
historical sites and the  
cemetery of Loyalton. Tour  
includes pictures of what  
originally stood on many  
of the sites.

### — THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, holds an annual meeting, publishes newsletters and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of Society activities, receive THE SIERRAN, and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour.

#### SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Address:

Kentucky Mine Museum

P.O. Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125

(530) 862-1310

*If you would like to become involved in these activities or would  
just like to give your support, please join us!*

## Long Point School

### by Maren Scholberg

In 1909, a new Long Point School District was formed and a small new school building was erected near the Charles Jones ranch on Highway 49. The schoolhouse stood where the Eamon Muldowneys house now stands. Eamon and Betty Muldowney have found a number of homemade marbles around the yard left from those school days. Some seemed to be made of clay; others were made of dough and baked and were called "dough boys".

The school was closed from 1919-1921 because the attendance fell below the minimum required. When it opened in 1921, Irene Loque, from near Oroville, was the new teacher. One of her pupils was Dario D'Andrea, now of Loyalton, who attended first grade. At that time, his family lived on the Charles Jones Ranch so school was very near. Bob Pasquetti also attended this school and finished 8th grade here.

The school closed from 1931-1937 because of the lack of school children in the area. In those days the school building was moved to wherever the school population required one. So using rollers and a tractor, the

schoolhouse was moved to the present Don Vanetti ranch on Highway 49. The school opened for the last time in 1937 with Mrs. Irene Torri as teacher. Irene Loque had married a local rancher, Pasquale Torri, and had become a permanent resident of Sierra Valley.



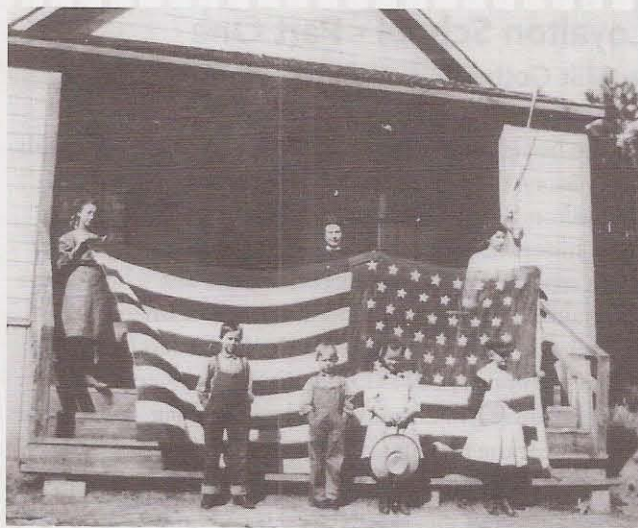
*Julio Pasquetti, Alvin Lombardi, Dario D'Andrea, Eddie Dotta, Durmea D'Andrea, Mary Phillipini, and Elsie Dotta pictured in 1928 at the Long Point School.*

## Sattley School

### by William Copren

The story of the Sattley school begins with the community of Rocky Point and the construction of the Rocky Point school. The Community of Rocky Point was located at a place called Yarrington's Meadows, today located along Highway 89 where the road turns off to go to Carmen Valley. James and Kimberly Johnson presently own the remnant of private property. H.J. Yarrington built a tavern and a livery stable. A post office was established in Rocky Point in May, 1876, and remained there until September, 1897, when it moved to Sattley.

The Rocky Point school, however, was nowhere near the community of Rocky Point. The school, located just south of the boundary between Sierra and Plumas counties on the west side of Sierra Valley on the road between Beckwourth and Sattley, was constructed in the late 1860's. Rocky Point School District is one of the first. It was established on February 23, 1871, when Sierra County was divided into twenty-six school districts.



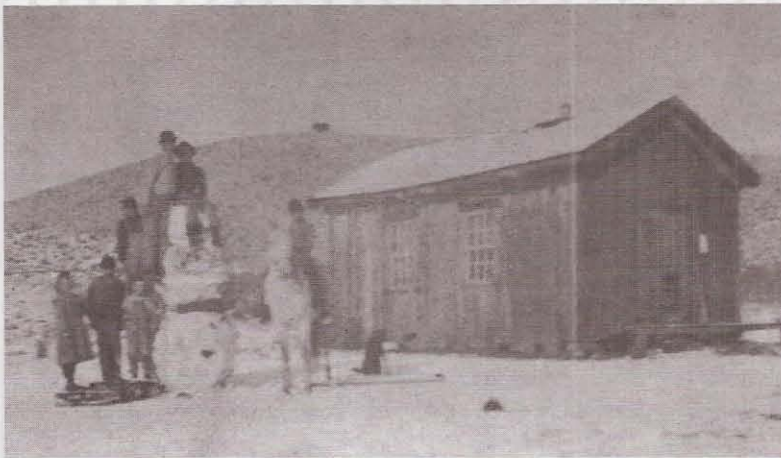
*Sattley school children and teacher sometime between 1896 and 1907 holding up a large American Flag.*

The School was located in front of a small ravine directly in the center of what is now Sierra County Road A-23, six miles north of Sattley and about a quarter mile south of the county boundary.

## Long Valley School by Maren Scholberg

Long Valley School was near the town of Purdy in eastern Sierra County, close to the California and Nevada border. Bordertown Casino on Highway 395 gives the reader a more current landmark for the location. A road behind the Casino leads to Balls Canyon.

The schoolhouse was built between the Trosi and Lemmon ranches, near the entrance to Balls Canyon.



Long Valley School which started in 1885 was closed permanently in 1940.

*A good picture of Long Valley school was taken in the winter (pictured at left—note snowman) about 1902. It shows seven children playing outside and six of the seven belonged to the Ramelli family—Emma, Caesar, Sylvius, Pompeo, Charlie and Julius.*

## Loyalton School - Part One by Milt Gottardi

For the history buffs who enjoy a bit of mystery along with their history, the establishment of the first school (schools?) in Loyalton is a real challenge—a challenge because none of the historical sources agree on dates or places. Farris and Smith report that the Rev. Doon built the first school house in Loyalton in 1865. No mention is made of where this building was located. In an article in the *Plumas National Bulletin* of February 20, 1913, Mr. O.W. Peck wrote, "the first schoolhouse in Loyalton was built in about 1868. It was located near the present Catholic Church of today."<sup>2</sup> Mr. Peck adds mystery because in 1906, the Roman Catholic Community of Loyalton purchased the old schoolhouse to be used as a church when the new school was built in 1903.

The building Mr. Peck describes must have been the Catholic Church then in use. *The Mountain Messenger*, in an article in November, 1869, reports "a school is being built in Loyalton."<sup>3</sup> To add to the mystery, another source reports that in 1873, the Loyalton School District purchased a hotel from a Mr. Belden for use as a school.

Conventional wisdom, if there is such a thing, among the old timers in Loyalton always held that the school was built in 1879 and used as a school until 1903. It was purchased by the Catholic community in 1906 and used until 1955 when a new church was then built. It was then used as a social hall until 1965 when it was given to the City of Loyalton and moved to its present location as part of the museum complex in the Loyalton Historical Park. It is the oldest building in Loyalton.



*Loyalton School in 1906.*

## Loyalton School - Part Two

### 1903 - 1938 by Milt Gottardi

With the growth of the lumber industry and the completion of the Boca and Loyalton Railroad in 1901, the school enrollment so increased that a new school building was needed. In 1902 a bond measure of \$7,500 was passed and by late 1903, the construction of the new schoolhouse was completed. The building had three stories. The ground level had separate girl's and boy's

lavatories, store rooms, and a furnace which furnished heat for the radiators in each room. The city was proud indeed of a school with indoor plumbing and a heating system that didn't require wood. The second floor had three large classrooms for the first and second grades, the third and fourth grades and the fifth and sixth grades. The top floor was for the seventh and eighth grades.

The high school was not long in coming. In 1908 the Sierra Valley Joint Union High School District was formed and the high school was in operation the same

year. The newly formed school board, representing the various areas of Sierra Valley, consisted of F. Peck, Henry Neville, William McNair, W.M. Marble, J.H. Peterson, Chas McElroy, A. Nichols, L. Ede, Ed Freeman, and Alex Guidici.



*School Days, Grades 1 through 8 -1912.*

## Calpine School

by Bill Long

Before there was a Calpine, there was a school district and a school there. The district was called Clare, founded in 1881. Calpine did not come along until 1919 when the Davies-Johnson Lumber Company established a large milling operation, supported by a wholly-owned company town, named— Calpine. The town was built, "overnight" in one great burst of energy.

Calpine, the company town, was replete with family houses sized and segregated by job levels, bachelor quarters, a dining hall, a huge recreation hall, a company store, and a brand new school house, erected on the original Clare site. The area bustled and boomed.

Western Pacific Railroad Company brought a spur line from Portola, southerly through Carman Valley, terminating at a station on the west side of what is now known as Highway 89, at the intersection of Calpine



*The original Calpine Clare school was located directly across from the railroad station.*

Road. Directly opposite the station, (on the eastern side of the now Highway 89) the company built a spacious two room shingle sided school house over a full basement, a half-story above ground level. That structure survives, belfry and bell intact, after post-pedagogical careers as a bar, restaurant, rumored bawdy house, and more recently remodeled into three floors of tidy residential apartments.

## Sierraville School

by Arlene Amodei

The Sierraville-Randolph school was probably the first built in the Valley. The first settlement—in what is now Randolph—began when W.C. and B.F. Lemmon and Ezra Culver constructed the first cabin in 1852. By 1862 both communities were thriving with hay and lumber being shipped to the Territory of Nevada in such quantity that

the lumber mills could barely keep up with the demand. By 1865 the native hay land was being plowed and planted with grains. This venture was so profitable that the people met and voted to raise six hundred dollars for the purpose of building a new school house between the two towns.

From 1929-1931 the Elementary students with Paul Roscoe as their principal attended school at the old Congregational Church, and the High School students attended school in a building that had been the parsonage of that church. James Sinnott was the principal.

This school has always maintained high academic standards. It is not unusual to have Sierraville students graduating as Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Loyalton High School, and in one instance at least, of Downieville High School. Many of the students go on to colleges and universities.

*Sierraville School in the 1890s.*



## Pine Creek & Lewis Mill School

by Maren Scholberg

### PINE CREEK SCHOOL

For a brief time there was a school south of Sierra Brooks near the cattle guard on the road to Lewis Mill called the PINE CREEK SCHOOL. It was active from 1888-1901. There were enough children from ranch families in the area to hire a teacher. Alice Turner taught in 1888, followed by Elizabeth Gloster in 1889, and Mae McCormick in 1900. According to Adele Lombardi, Mae McCormick, who lived in Purdy at the time, rode horseback up Balls Canyon on the Staverville Road to get to school for the week, returning home for the weekend.

### LEWIS MILL SCHOOL

Because of the number of men working at the mill who had their families living there with them, a school was conducted at Lewis Mill from 1900-1905. Frances Kerby was the teacher from 1900-1904, followed by Martha A. Gee who taught there one year—1904-1905. This information is from J.J. Sinnott's book *Sierra Valley Jewel of the Sierras*.

## Loyalton School - Part Three

### 1938 - 1959 by Milt Gottardi

It is a complement to the citizens of Loyalton and the surrounding area of the high school district that, in spite of the economic problems of the Great Depression (the Sierra Valley Bank had closed in 1932 and many citizens had lost their life's savings), they passed the bonds to build a new high and elementary school.

The schools were in one building with two wings. Besides modern classrooms, there was a principal's office, lavatories, storage space and a large auditorium with a stage and kitchen.

The high school wing had a science room equipped with gas and water at each table for experiments, a home economics room, classrooms, a large library and office space. The citizens of the school district were proud indeed of their new school, completed in the fall of 1939. However, there had not been adequate funds to build a new gym nor include a shop for the high school. This did not deter the citizen's desire for new school

facilities. By 1940 funds were raised to add the shop and students, under the direction of Mr. Noys, completed the interior of the shop in 1941. By 1943, the gym was completed.

The most dramatic happening was the fire of January 25, 1957. The fire that destroyed the shop and the girl's and boy's lavatories and partially destroyed the Home Ec. Department. Following the fire there was a concerted effort by the community and the school board to build a new school. Their efforts succeeded and the high school moved into its new building in September, 1959.

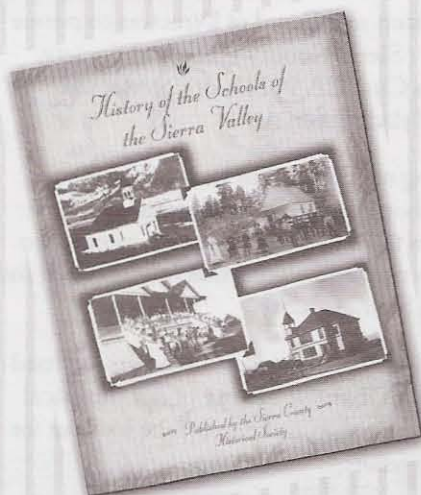
Loyalton Elementary school experienced a significant growth in student population following W.W. II. Part of reason for the growth was the formation of a Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District.



*By 1941, a school bus became part of the Loyalton School scene.*



## ORDER FORM



### "History of the Schools of the Sierra Valley"

Published by the Sierra County Historical Society 2004

**PRICE:** \$25.00 plus tax \$1.81, plus shipping by mail \$2.00

**TOTAL:** \$28.81

How may books \_\_\_\_\_ x \$28.81 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Sierra County Historical Society**. Mail to:

**Sierra County Historical Society**

P.O. Box 145

Sierraville, CA 96126

Historic Calendars for 2005 also available for \$10.00 each.

Shipping and tax are included if ordered with books. If ordered alone, please make check payable for \$11.00.

Thank you for your order.

# The Sierran

Sierra County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 260  
Sierra City, California 96125

U.S. Postage Paid  
Non-Profit Org.  
Bulk Rate  
Permit #2  
Sierra City, CA 96125

Membership in the Sierra  
County Historical Society:

**Individual**

\$15.00

**Family & Institution**

\$20.00

**Business & Supporting**

\$30.00

**Sustaining**

\$50.00

**Life (per individual)**

\$250.00

Please send dues to the  
Membership Chair:

Lynn McKechnie

P.O. Box 294

Sierraville, CA 96126

THE SIERRAN

SUMMER 2004

## Message From President Bud Buczkowske

As my year as President draws to a close I would like each member of the Sierra County Historical Society to know some of the accomplishments of your Officers, Board of Directors, and members. Vast improvements are taking place at the Kentucky Mine Museum; the concert series (4), through the efforts of Past-President Bill Long, have been well attended. Milton Gottardi, Arlene Amodei, Maren Scholberg, Virginia Lutes, William Long, and William Copren working and writing together have had their book "History of the Schools of the Sierra Valley" published by our "Sierran" editor Judy Lawrence, and her business, Pritchard Advertising. This book is now available for purchase (order form provided in this publication). Milton and his committee are also responsible for developing a 2005 calendar, complementing each month with photographs of historical sites and places across Sierra County. This is available for \$10.00 and is sure to be a collector's item, as is the "History of the Schools of the Sierra Valley". These publications are our major fund raisers for this year, and I hope you will support the efforts.

Four primary documents have been revised, updated and confirmed by respective departments on the local, state and national level. Don Ryberg, Chairman of the Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribal Council, has addressed the Board on concerns of the Maidu.

As a member, if you have an issue, idea, or concern you would like your Officers and Board of Directors to pursue please contact us at : Sierra County Historical Society, P.O. Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125, or contact me directly by email: [jelylady@scsn.net](mailto:jelylady@scsn.net).

Our Annual Meeting will be held in Loyalton, CA, on the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, September 12, 2004. This promises to be a day of historical interest, so mark your calendars now and attend this tour through the history of Loyalton, Sierra County.

As you see, your Officers and Board of Directors are hard at work. Keep in mind that the lifeline of our historical society lies in its membership, so keep on the lookout for good prospective members.